

DSST: Byers STP General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2015

6:30PM

150 Pearl St, Commons

STP Officers in attendance: Lisa Seaman, Rayna Freeman, Suzannah Brown, Jen Wilshire, Maria Burke, Dawn Stewart, Beth Ferguson, Michelle Morgan, Marcia Toll, Anna Baker

Absent: Eric Martinson, Michel Brossmer

Lisa Seaman opened and facilitated the meeting.

Lisa asked each Board member to provide an update on current and on-going projects.

Suzannah Brown, Secretary Update

- Current communication tools the STP is using, including the Newsletter, STP Website and On-line Parent Directory.
- Cynthia Swanson and Laura Grassi have been working on the Directory hosted via MySchoolAnywhere. To date, approximately 40% of families have confirmed their family data. A personalized letter will be sent to families who have not confirmed data indicating that the STP includes to use the software's email capability as its primary method of communication. Families can opt of the directory (meaning they don't need to have their information published), but can still confirm a primary email and will be able to receive communications. Once the Directory is published, the STP will use it for notifying the school of volunteer opportunities.
- Goal is to create an STP communication committee by the end of the school year.

Rayna Freeman, Vice-Chair/Volunteer Coordinator update:

- Rayna will be working to get all parents involved in the school community in some way. A +1 survey was sent to the entire school asking them about their volunteer interests. This will help Rayna direct volunteer communications to parents with particular interests.
- Also working on getting teachers involved in making volunteer requests.

Lisa Seaman gave Treasurer, Eric Martinson's update.

- Jen Wilshire requested a budget for drinks and snacks for the Parent Meet and Greet to be held during the students' dance.
- Lisa Seaman granted the request; an exact dollar amount was not set.

STP Plans for Byers High School/Middle School

- A questions was raised regarding STP and the new high school. Lisa Seaman reported that the current plan is to have one STP over both the middle and high school with a Board Chair positions for each school. There would be one President, Vice President and Treasurer and then both a middle and high school board position for other STP Board roles.

Parent Support Chair, Jen Whilshire Update:

- Jen Wilshire gave an update on the parent Meet and Greet to be held during the school dance. The event will be held in Ms. Bardes Room.
- The hope was to get a head count to ensure we purchased enough food/drink. The school is unable to do this for us and the online directory isn't complete, so Jen will do her best to estimate and purchase drinks that can be reused.

Maria Burke, Chair Fundraising, update:

- Update on the STP meeting with Denise Queen, Development Director for the DSST Network. We are able to fundraise and there is no cap on the amount we can raise. Maria will be planning a direct give event in January/February to ensure it doesn't conflict with the Network Event, Slice of Pi, which is being held on April 29th.
- There is discussion of creating a fundraising program where each school that fundraises gives a percentage back to the Network to distribute to other DSST schools in need.
- Maria provided an explanation of Slice of Pi vs. an STP fundraising event.
- Our fundraising would go toward clubs, sports, activities.
- One of the items that will be worked on in our fundraising plan is how funds can be requested and distributed.

Dawn Masters, Vice Chair, Fundraising update:

- Dawn is responsible for smaller fundraisers we will be having including King Sooper's Cards, Target (which ends May 2016), and Amazon Smile.
- Also looking into several other fundraisers such as hosting an event at Ever Eve.
- Dawn found a parent to coordinate restaurant nights. Thank you to Suzy Sabol for volunteering for this role!!!
- Dawn will be driving the effort to put together a proposal for the Home Office with what fundraising events we want to do, how the money will be collected, accounted for and distributed. Colorado Gives is another way people can give to Byers – access is via the DSST Network web site. Lisa and Dawn recommended that we use the next STP Board meeting to discuss a fundraising proposal.
- Parent attendee, Dana Kang, offered to assist with a direct give campaign as she was in charge of one at Cory.

Fundraising Update by Lisa Seaman

- We will not be participating in a United Way campaign per the DSST Network. Their preference is to do direct give fundraising.

Michelle Morgan, Student Support Chair update:

- Working with Scott Franzblau on the Fall Dance. There will be two dances. One for the 7th/8th grade in the gym and one for the 6th grade in the Commons.
- Pizza and water will be served. Decorations and possible photo booth. Students will be kept in their respective spaces and will not be allowed to roam the building. Parent DJs will handle the music systems.
- Lisa Seaman raised a concern about the separation of the grades, indicating that her preference would have been for all the students to be together to strengthen the sense of community between students.

Marcia Toll and Anna Baker, Chair and Co-Chair of the Staff Support Committee update:

- Hosting a breakfast sponsored by the 7th grade on October 28th. They are still looking for some volunteers. Anna intends to post the information on the DSST Byers Parents Facebook page.

Beth Ferguson gave an update on the Parent Accountability Committee meetings:

- She has not attended one. The meetings are attended by Byers Administration (Brad White or a designee, DSST Board members and parents.) The school reports on successes and parents are asked to raise concerns. Beth has asked Brad White for a schedule of the meetings and will follow up.

Lisa Seaman opened the conversation up for parent questions and concerns.

- The overwhelming concern was the perception of a lack of transparency on the part of the administration on a number of topics including the change in the Math Program, the deletion of Gym from the 8th grade schedule, the High School launch. Additionally, concerns were raised about the fact that an apprentice teacher with no apparent training will be taking over for Ms. Green.
- A suggestion was raised to partner with some parents from Cole who have recently gone through the process of starting a high school due to concerns about our high school launch.

Meeting adjourned by Lisa Seaman 8:20PM

Next meeting:

Tuesday, November 17th, 2015 6:30PM

DSST: Byers Room 27

Minutes submitted by Suzannah Brown